


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: July 1, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development 
RE: Friday Report
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 7/4/11	• City Hall Closed for the Holiday
Tuesday 7/5/11	
Wednesday 7/6/11	• Fair Housing Committee, 8:00 a.m., Room 202
Thursday 7/7/11	• Newtonville Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 202

- **Fair Housing Committee:** The Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 6th at 8:00 a.m. in Room 202. Items on the agenda include: Nominations and election of next F.H.C. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson; Review and approval of June 1st meeting minutes; Discussion of membership issues and prospects; Discussion on the architectural access report recommendations and implementation. **Contact Robert Muollo, Jr. at 617.796.1146 or rmuollo@newtonma.gov.**
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday, July 7th** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 202. The following items are on the agenda: **34 Foster Street**, request to restore roof balustrade on bow front; and **16 Prescott Street**, request to install length of wood lattice fence along portion of front lot line. Other business includes approval of minutes from the November 2010 and June 2011 meetings. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov.**
- **Congratulations to the Joint Advisory Planning Group for Austin Street!:** The JAPG reviewed the potential reuse of the Austin Street parking lot area located in Newtonville and has issued its final report. This report can be found on the City's website at www.newtonma.gov/Planning/austin/austinst.asp. Many thanks to all who contributed to this community effort and for an excellent report, which will be reviewed by the Real Property Reuse Committee this summer. **Contact Eve Tapper at 617.796.1141 or email etapper@newtonma.gov.**



- **The Station at Riverside, Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):** The Planning Department recently received the Draft E.I.R. as submitted to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. Comments are due to MEPA not later than August 19, 2011. The report can be found on the City's website at www.newtonma.gov/Planning/Riverside/environmental-impact.htm.
- **Got LEED?:** The City of Newton is interested in tracking LEED-Certified construction within the City. If you know of a building that has received or is intending to receive this distinction please let us know! **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.**
- **Community Preservation Committee – New 2011-2012 Funding Deadline, Process & Community Outreach:** Newton's Community Preservation Committee began requiring pre-proposals for funding requests in fall 2010. At its June 2011 meeting, the Committee decided **that the last possible date to submit a pre-proposal for the next funding round will be July 1, 2012 – a year from now.**

The Committee will resume its traditional annual funding rounds in the future, but chose an unusually long, one-time-only deadline for 2011-12 for several reasons: First and foremost, the CPC wants to make sure project sponsors are aware of the new pre-proposal requirement and understand its advantages for them. The Committee accepts pre-proposals on a rolling basis and discusses them at any of its regular, monthly public meetings. Early pre-proposals allow sponsors to get constructive feedback from the CPC before investing the significant time required to prepare a full proposal. Also, sponsors of time-sensitive projects may use their pre-proposal discussion with the Committee to ask if they may submit a full proposal "off-cycle," before (or after) the next regular funding round.

The July 2012 deadline also allows for the expected completion between fall 2011 and spring 2012 of several City-wide studies and plans, including the City Archives Survey, City Historic Buildings Survey, and the next *Open Space Plan*. In combination with pre-proposals, these plans will help the CPC weigh the importance of current proposals against priorities for future funding. Clear future priorities are becoming more important than ever, given the slow but steady decline in the state matching funds Newton receives through the CPA, due to a greater number of participating cities and towns and the downturn in the real estate market.

Finally, 2011-2012 is the 10th anniversary of the Community Preservation Act in Newton. Newton voters adopted the Act in November 2001. Newton's first CPC held a series of hearings in neighborhoods around the City before forwarding its first funding recommendation to the Board of Aldermen, which appropriated funds for Newton's first CPA project in December 2002. The CPC is planning a new series of neighborhood events in 2011-12 to recognize what the CPA has helped Newton accomplish over the past ten years, and to hear directly from residents their thoughts about future priorities and projects. **For more information or to submit a pre-proposal, please contact Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, www.newtonma.gov/cpa, 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.**